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**PHILIPPINES**

## POPULATION, HEALTH & NUTRITION

### THE USAID-MICRONUTRIENT OPERATIONAL STRATEGIES AND TECHNOLOGIES (MOST) PROJECT - INTERNATIONAL SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY INSTITUTE (ISTI)

#### PROJECT OBJECTIVE

The **USAID–Micronutrient Operational Strategies and Technologies (MOST) Project** provides technical assistance that supports the goals and objectives of the Philippine Food Fortification Program of providing an additional 50% of the recommended daily allowance of vitamin A, iron and iodine through mandatory and voluntary fortification of processed foods through the *Sangkap Pinoy Seal* Program.



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**[www.usaid-ph.gov](http://www.usaid-ph.gov)**  
keywords: MOST, Vitamin A

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#### PROJECT BACKGROUND

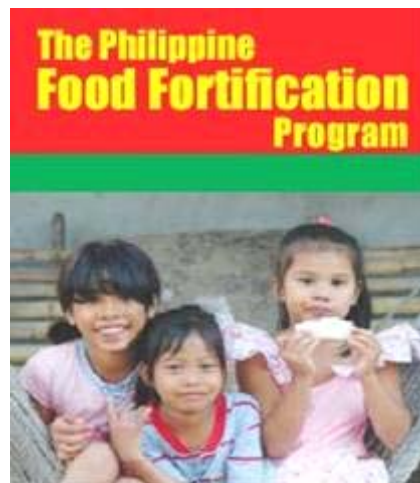
The results of the 1998 National Nutrition Survey (NNS) showed a significant increase in the prevalence of micronutrient deficiencies from the 1993 NNS particularly for vitamin A, iron and iodine. This happened despite the mass supplementation campaigns particularly with vitamin A that started in 1993. This prompted the Department of Health to develop a Food Fortification Strategic Plan for 2000–2004. The plan became the basis for the USAID to support its implementation through the **MOST Project**, the USAID Micronutrient Program.

The MOST Project is implemented by Washington-based ISTI and will run until September 2005.

#### PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

Based on the **Philippine Food Fortification Strategic Plan 2000 – 2004**, the main strategy to achieve the goals and objective of the plan is through public–private sector–NGO partnership as food fortification requires the support of the private sector to make available fortified foods with support from government and NGO's which the MOST Project facilitates. For this partnership to happen, an environment has to be established conducive to fortification. This environment has seven major program components where MOST provides technical assistance as part of its programs and services. These are:

- 1) Program management anchored of public-private-NGO partnership
- 2) Fortification technology development and transfer
- 3) Communication and promotion of fortified foods
- 4) Policy research and development in support of legislation for food fortification
- 5) Regulatory monitoring systems
- 6) Program monitoring and evaluation
- 7) Research activities in support of the above.





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## THE USAID-MICRONUTRIENT OPERATIONAL STRATEGIES AND TECHNOLOGIES (MOST) PROJECT - INTERNATIONAL SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY INSTITUTE (ISTI)

### ACCOMPLISHMENTS (AS OF DECEMBER 2004)

- An improved management structure for the implementation of the food fortification program was established with public-private-NGO representatives.
- Republic Act 8976 was passed mandating the fortification of flour with vitamin A and iron, cooking oil with vitamin A, refined sugar with vitamin A and rice with iron by November 7, 2004.
- Technology development and transfer have been conducted for 32 big oil refiners, all flour millers, two sugar producers and a rice mill association, the National Food Authority (NFA) and a rice premix producer. This resulted in the expected fortification of all flour and about 80% of cooking oil by end of 2004 and limited availability of fortified sugar and rice (through NFA). Guides for fortification were developed for industry use.
- A communication and promotion plan was implemented that created partners in the business sector, NGOs supporting food fortification and increased awareness of fortified foods and their benefits. This was highlighted by an Executive Order by President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo declaring November as National Food Fortification Day.
- An interagency regulatory and program monitoring system was developed and is currently being pilot tested in Region II.
- As part of the LGU strengthening project with Helen Keller International, the Project supported the conduct of training, workshop and communication and social mobilization activities in six regions, 18 provinces, 13 cities and 53 municipalities.
- The Project supported the conduct of a food consumption survey as part of the 6<sup>th</sup> National Nutrition Survey and on-going micronutrient surveillance in six LGU's.
- An incentives manual for food fortification was developed, which included food fortification as part of the Investment Priority Plan for 2004.